(iv) To implement the resolutions and decisions taken under various International Conventions such as on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), International Whaling Commission, etc., to which India is and other International Convention Party.

(v) To co-operate with the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group, the World Customs Organization, the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force and various other Law Enforcement Agencies inside the country.

(vi) To develop a National level Policy for containing the trade, enforcement and capacity building of the State Forest Departments to carry out enfprcement and investigation in a professional manner.

(vii) To advise the Government of India on changes required in policy and legislation from time to time.

(c) Does not arise.

Census of tigers

4699. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Panna (Madhya Pradesh) once hailed as the best success story of Project Tiger, has lost 35 to 40 tigers during the past two years;

(b) whether at least 6 tigers were also reported killed in Bandhavgarh (M.P) recently;

(c) whether any census of tiger population has lately been caused or is being caused; if so, the comparative population of tigers in different sanctuaries and reserves as per last two censuses; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to protect and promote tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No such report has come to light from the State Government.

(c) Yes Sir. The All India Estimation of tigers is done once in every four years, and the comparative figures of last two such censuses are given in

the enclosed Statement (See below). The forthcoming All India tiger estimation has been scheduled from November 2005 to February 2006.

(d) The following measures have been taken at the Government of India level to protect tiger and other wild animals:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(vi) independent monitoring of tiger reserves has been done by a panel of experts drawn as per the normative guidelines of the Ministry. A standardized format for evaluation has been prescribed for monitoring and evaluation, based on the frame work of the World Commission of Protected Areas (IUCN).

(vii) A 'tiger habitat and population evaluation system' has been developed in the GIS domain, with inputs from the scientists of Wll, involving the State officials and field staff. Based on this, the Project Tiger Directorate of the Ministry has refined the procedure with a peer review mechanism comprising of independent experts, both national and international (IUCN) for overseeing the primary data collection.

(viii) Tiger presence and its breeding status have been mapped for the entire country at taluk level amplification in the GIS domain for an assessment of habitat fragmentation.

Statement

Population of Tigers in the Country as Reported by the States

SI.No.	Name of the State	1997	2001-02**
1	Andhra Pradesh	171	192
2	Arunachal Pradesh	*	61***
3	Assam	458	354
4	Bihar	103	76
5	Chhattisgarh	****	227
6	Delhi	NIL	NIL
7	Goa	6	5
8	Gujarat	1	NIL
9	Haryana	NIL	NIL
10	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL
11	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL	NIL
12	Jharkhand	****	34
13	Karnataka	350	401
14	Kerala	73	71
15	Madhya Pradesh	927	710
16	Maharashtra	257	238
17	Manipur	*	NIL
18	Meghalaya	*	47
19	Mizoram	12	28
20	Nagaland	*	23t
21	Orissa	194	173
22	Punjab	NIL	NIL
23	Rajasthan	58	58
24	Sikkim	*	NR

SI.No.	Name of the State	1997	2001-02"
25	Tamil Nadu	62	60
26	Tripura	*	NR
27	Uttaranchal	****	251
28	Uttar Pradesh	475	284
29	West Bengal	361	349
	TOTAL :	3508	3642

NR. Not reported by State.

* Tiger census was not carried out.

** Under compilation/vetting.

*** Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve.

**** Figures included in undivided State.

† Entire State not covered.

Tiny elephants

†4700. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the species of tiny elephants have been found in the forests of Kerala;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this was known at the time when the four such elephants have already been killed; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for the conservation of the species of tiny elephants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no scientific evidence regarding the existence of tiny elephants in the forests of Kerala.

(c) Elephant is included in Schedule -1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and gets all necessary protection from the Forest Department in Kerala. The Central Government provides financial support to Kerala under Project Elephant for conservation of elephants. An amount of Rs. 1.67 cr. was released in favour of the State Government during 2004-05. Four

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.